

Partners Project: Restoration of sea turtle nesting habitat by changing beachfront lighting

A pilot demonstration project was funded on neon lights. Neon lights are less harmful to sea turtles. The new neon lights are aesthetically pleasing, economical to run, and can withstand the conditions of the beachfront environment.

Sea turtle "see" differently than humans. They see light in the shorter wavelengths, the blues and greens which makes sense because they spend their lives in the blue ocean. Artificial beachfront lighting emits these wavelengths of light. Female turtle look for dark beaches to lay nests, a bright beach keeps them away and conversely, hatchling turtles seek the brightest horizon as they emerge from the nest and crawl to the ocean. Hatchlings that do not quickly make it to the ocean could be exposed to predators, become dehydrated, or end up on a highway.



Red neon is the least attractant of the neon lights and is the only color permitted on boardwalks to the beach.

Other neon colors are permitted on balconies (that are "off" the beach). Note the difference between the brightness of the conventional "white" balcony lights and the softer blue neon lights.

